

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

Vol. I.

BENTON, MO., JULY 4, 1902.

No. 34.

Single Tax View of Trust Question.

The Causes that Lead to a Universal Trust and, in the end to Socialism.—The Remedy.

Louis F. Post in West.

We recognized that there might be such a thing as a good trust. There might be commercial combinations that would reduce prices by economizing. They would indeed displace men, as machinery and other labor-saving methods do; but under just and normal conditions, there would be abundant opportunities for all who were displaced. Immediate demands for them in kindred occupations would constantly exceed the supply. Such trusts would tend to improve social conditions, instead of making them worse. Those are the kind of trusts which our pro-trust friends have in mind when they defend the trust. But in fact there is not such a trust in existence to-day, and under prevailing industrial conditions there can be no such trust.

The trust question as it faces us is not a question of business combination. It is a question of legal monopoly. If competitive conditions prevail, combinations of competitive business would do no harm. They would have to do good or they could not keep the combination alive. But when business control legal monopolies and form combinations of these then you have harmful trusts. And that is the kind of trust to-day—the kind of trust which we complain. The trust question, I repeat, is not a question of business combinations, but a question of legal monopoly. It is not to be dealt with by restrictive laws, operating upon methods and effects. That would only make bad conditions worse. You have got to get beneath the methods and effects and get at the causes of these bad trusts. You have got to strike at the monopolies which give them their power. Abolish the legal monopolies that underlie trusts, and trusts will disappear.

Take any trust which on its face seems to be a combination of mere competitive interests. If it were so in fact, it would be a good or at least a harmless trust. But scrutinize it and you will find that somehow, directly or indirectly, it depends for its power upon monopoly. It may have no monopoly by name. It may simply be taking advantage of general laws. It may depend, for example, upon the restrictions upon free competition which are imposed by tariffs. To the extent that the tariff narrows the field of competition, to that extent it fosters trusts. One of the very objects of the tariff is to produce that condition of strangled competition without which trusts could not live. If we wish to get rid of trusts, we must sweep away the tariff and make trade as free between the people of the world as it is between the people of our states.

While single tax men demand the abolition of the tariff—offering in its place for revenue purposes an infinitely wiser and juster system of taxation, they do not suppose that the abolition of the tariff would abolish all trusts. It would abolish a good many, and weaken the foundation of a good many more. But trusts would still be fostered by other and more direct systems of legal monopolies.

Take the railroad for instance. That is a highway, and in private hands is a highway monopoly. The monopoly is not in the cars, or tracks, or tunnels, or buildings, or anything of that sort. It is in the right of way—in the land that constitutes the "way" as distinguished from the structure. These highways connect places, and to control them is to control traffic. Railroad corporations can form oppressive trusts because they control highway monopolies.

They can and they do more than that. They make exclusive contracts with business concerns, which form trusts upon the basis of special railroad privileges. One of the most familiar examples of this sub-letting of railroads is furnished by express companies. Express companies thereby acquire monopolies of right of way, and can form oppressive trusts by combining these monopolies into one. Express companies are only one class of concerns deriving monopoly privileges in that way. There are others. The Standard Oil trust built up its power in precisely that way. The cracker trust is said to have privileges of this kind. And doubtless, if you inquire closely, you will learn that many a trust with an innocent face derives its power from railroad privileges. Highway monopolies, they must be abolished, if we would free ourselves from vicious trusts.

But even if that were done, trusts would still have a firm foundation to build upon. No trust can perpetuate itself unless it gets its feet upon the ground. All the advantage of tariff

and railway privileges and other monopolies will not avail trusts that come in conflict with hostile trusts which monopolize sources of supply and distributive points. Monopoly of land, then, is the ultimate basis of the trust. It is an absolute condition to success that the trust have its feet upon the earth.

This has been discovered by the great trusts. The steel trust and copper trust go back to the land and make one mine part of their property, while the coal transporting trust, of the anthracite region is careful to secure not only highways but coal mines. Railroad monopoly itself is being subjected to the more powerful monopoly of land at terminal points. Let us follow the idea a little further. The control of trusts by trusts is clearly among the possibilities of trust development. As partnerships have merged into corporations and corporations into trusts, so will trusts merge into trusts of trusts, and finally into one all powerful trust. That is the tendency. It is already manifest, and will be a thing accomplished unless we kill the trust system.

Suppose, for example, that the steel trust should reach out until it controls all the ore mines. It would then have its feet upon the ground, and no competitor in the steel business could cope with it. But it must use coal, and here let us suppose, is one coal trust which has reached out until it controls all the coal mines. It, too, has its feet upon the ground. Suppose now that the interests of these trusts collide, and what would be the outcome but the consolidation of the two into one? That illustrates the trend of the trusts. And if not stopped, that trend will persist until the organization of trusts and their absorption into trusts of trusts venturate in the ownership of all business by one gigantic combination.

To that triumph of the trusts most socialists look forward with satisfaction. They see in it the opportunity to the people to take possession not only of the earth but of the artificial instruments of production also by dethroning the single trust under whose control all business will have come. But there is no real cause for satisfaction in that. As the evolution of the trust proceeds, trust employees become in greater and greater degree mere voting machines. It is not their convictions as citizens that they register at the polls. They vote as they are ordered to. This condition would be enormously worse if the development of the trusts proceeds even approximately to the point of a universal trust. And when the time came to dethrone trusts, the voice of the people would be stifled. The trusts themselves would decide the issue. They would do it through the army of dependent voters whose livelihood they would control. It might be that they would decide in favor of substitution of such a government trust as the socialists look forward to. But if they did, they themselves would fix the terms. All land and machinery might be by their consent and with the votes of their dependents be turned over to the government, but it would be for a price that the trust magnates would dictate and to a government which they would control.

It is not by waiting until trusts own everything and then taking it from them that the trust question must be met. We must kill the trust by securing in time the point of vantage toward which it is advancing. We must keep its feet off the ground.

Since trusts, in order to survive, must get their feet upon the ground, must control the earth at the points of supply and the points of distribution, the abolition of all monopolies except land monopoly would fail to abolish them. By acquiring control of the land they would control everything else. So it is that single tax men though they would abolish the tariff, though they would abolish highway monopolies, though they would repeal every law that creates or supports monopoly, they would not stop there. They would strike the mother monopoly of all: They would abolish the monopoly of land.

To do that they propose nothing revolutionary. Revolution is not necessary. All that is necessary is to tax into the public treasury the peculiar value that attaches to especially advantageous locations. If that were done, no man or combination of men, whether incorporated or not, could monopolize the sources of supply or the points of distribution without paying annually to the public the value of the privilege. That would deprive them of all advantage over others. It would lift their feet off the ground.

You remember the classic fable of Hercules and Antaeus. Hercules with all his strength could not conquer Antaeus so long as Antaeus could touch the earth. But when Hercules discovered wherein the power of his adversary lay, he lifted Antaeus from the earth and destroyed him with ease. The trusts are the modern Antaeus. Let the people lift them from the earth and the battle against them will be won.

Something About Wealth.

"Do you know that that is the second richest man in Scott county?" said Judge Reeder to the editor as ex-Senator Hunter passed along the sidewalk the other day.

"No, I didn't know it," replied the editor.

"That is what they say."

"Of what does his riches consist?"

"Land, I suppose."

"That is just where you are mistaken. Land in itself is neither rich nor wealth."

"Well, what is it then?"

"It is just land—a natural opportunity put here by the Creator from which wealth may be produced. No wealth can be produced except from the ground, and Mr. Hunter's riches consist of title deeds, the result of man-made laws, which permit him to take a part of what others produce."

"Oh, well, now, you are getting off into deep water."

"Not so deep as you might suppose. The present land system is the result of bought legislation, and the men who are in a position to take advantage of it can easily acquire so-called wealth. Repeat the law that permits Mr. Hunter to take a part of what others produce and he will be as poor as I am."

"Maybe so."

"I do not fall out with the men who take advantage of the present system, but I do lose respect for men who attempt to defend it. We send ship loads of provisions to Ireland and India to the suffering tenant farmers who must obey the law and give the lion's share to their English landlords. Congress passes resolutions of sympathy for these people—and yet our land laws are the same as in those countries and the only reason we have less suffering here is because the population is not so dense. In his younger days Mr. Hunter visited Europe and studied the conditions there. Being a lawyer and a man of foresight he could see that the same conditions must bring about the same results—and he returned home and immediately began to get control of the land. Without land man cannot live—and they who own the land have it in their power to dictate the terms on which others may be permitted to live. And as the land becomes more and more monopolized by the few, the masses become more and more dependent and can live on the land CREATED FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF ALL MEN only on the conditions prescribed by the holders of the warranty deeds."

Dr. Parsons Coming.

Dr. M. G. Parsons, of St. Louis, writes us that he will be in Benton professionally from July 6 to 9. His specialty is the eye, ear, nose and throat, and says he has had many years of successful practice. He straightens cross eyes with very little pain or loss of time and removes cataract without pain or confinement in a dark room. He claims to treat deafness or catarrh with the most scientific methods known to the profession, and all surgical work is done aseptically and with care and precision. Glasses fitted perfectly to the eyes and furnished at reasonable rates. At Oran, in May, he straightened the cross-eyes of J. S. Green and Miss Dora Thornton and refers parties interested to them. He will arrive in Benton Sunday and remain until Tuesday evening.

About Home.

A saloonist of Commerce inquires of the KICKER why steamboats are permitted to land and sell liquor there on Sundays, while he, a citizen, is not permitted to do so. The KICKER gives it up. Ask your officials whose duty it is to enforce the law without discrimination.

Last Wednesday morning at ten o'clock, at the office of Squire Cannon, in this city, occurred the wedding of Miss Ella Davis and Will Hardin, both the contracting parties being from Santa Fe, Ill.

Roy J. Williams, of Kelso, and Miss Georgia Clemson, of Oran, were married at the home of the bride on Thursday of last week.

Mrs. Julia High will be in Hamburg July 5, 6 and 7, on a short visit to her mother, Mrs. V. Scherer.

The postoffice has moved to Walker's grocery store and we got mail when the Feavine can stay on the track long enough to get here.

SENSATION SALE FOR THE SEASON



Removal Sale!

CHANCE OF A LIFE-TIME

Preparatory to quitting business at Kelso and removing to Poplar Bluff,

NEW YORK BARGAIN STORE

Will close out its Entire Stock at 60c and 75c on the Dollar.

The Kelso store will be closed on July 10, so you have about 10 days in which to take advantage of these Big Bargains.

10 Days

We believe that the good news of this great sale will be the best news for the people of Kelso and vicinity. We will make this a sale from the first that will break every low price record and annihilate all the profits and a big part of the cost. All our Clothing, Shoes, Ladies' Skirts, Shirt Waists, Men's and Boys' Hats and Caps, Underwear, Hosiery, Neckwear, Table Linens, and thousands of other things too numerous to mention.

The Entire Store is a Sea of Bargains!

Men's Working Shirts, assorted colors, worth 65c, 35c, 3 for 1.00	2.50 Men Shoes now go at only 1.00	2.50 Men Shoes now go at only 1.00	2.50 Men Shoes now go at only 1.00	2.50 Men Shoes now go at only 1.00	2.50 Men Shoes now go at only 1.00
Men's Laundry Shirts, all shades and colors, worth 1.00, cut to 48c	1.75 Men Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.75 Men Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.75 Men Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.75 Men Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.75 Men Shoes now go at only 1.00
Men's Overalls, 50c quality, for 29c	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00
Men's Underwear, Balbrigan, suit 1.50	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00
Big lot Fancy Underwear, all sizes 29c	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00
Boys' Everyday Shirts go at, each, 17c	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00
1000 Men's Pants, worth 2.00, now 99c	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00
Pants worth 4.00 go now for 2.75	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00
Men's Cheviot Suits, worth 15.00, 7.99	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00
Men's Fancy Cashmere, worth 8.00, 2.99	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00
400 Boys' Suits, worth 4.00, now 1.99	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00
Children's Suits, worth 3.00, now 1.49	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00
Thousands of other Clothing Bargains.	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00	1.50 Boys Shoes now go at only 1.00

5 barrels best Machine Oil, 20 c per gallon.

These are only a few of our Many Bargains.

NEW YORK STORE, Kelso, Mo.

HE'S A "PARTY" MAN.

County Clerk McPheeters Believes in Voting Straight.

County Clerk McPheeters is a strict "party" man, and like all men who know a good thing after having thoroughly tested it, he advocates "party harmony." "Party harmony," as viewed from the standpoint of those who have both feet in the public trough, means the non-interference with the existing conditions. They are satisfied, and regard any attempt to change these conditions as revolutionary.

The county clerk and the editor were seated in front of the court house the other evening when the conversation drifted to public ownership. Mr. McPheeters declared himself opposed to public ownership because it would, according to Mr. McPheeters, be impossible to dislodge the party in power.

"It is next to impossible to dislodge a party in power now," replied the editor. "By a system of indirect taxation in the nation and state you have created a horde of boards and commissioners and directors and collectors and gaugers and attorneys and inspectors and examiners until the force is irresistible."

"But it would be worse under public ownership."

"How could it be worse? Under present conditions every fellow with an elective or appointive office gets out and does what he can to save the 'party,' and gets his friends to do the same, and new boards and commissioners are constantly being created to make room for more party rotters, and the taxes the people must pay to support this army of rotters is enormous."

"Why, we've got a low tax rate." "Low tax rate, thunder! You are churning all that is permitted under the constitution in direct tax, and then you have a system of indirect taxation that is enormous. Everything is tax, tax, tax—and all taxes are ultimately paid by the producers. There is the insurance tax—"

"Don't you want insurance companies taxed?" interrupted the county clerk.

"What of it? The tax is added to the cost of insurance and they who buy insurance must pay it. And even they who do not buy insurance must pay."

"How so?"

"To illustrate: A merchant carries insurance on his stock. He adds the cost of the insurance to the selling price of his goods, and the consumer who buys the goods not only pays the cost of the insurance, but the tax as well. Have you any idea how many saloons there are in the state?"

"No; but I can find out. There are several thousand."

"Imagine the enormous revenue derived from these places. The tax

on these saloons is anywhere from \$650 to \$2,000 a year each. This alone would seem almost sufficient to run the affairs of government."

"But the state doesn't get it all."

"No; it is divided between the state, county and municipality. But it is a tax just the same and is paid by the people indirectly and should reduce the direct taxation. Then we have the corporation tax, the paid and billiard table tax, the race track tax, the beer inspection tax, the whiskey manufacturer's tax, the inheritance tax, the building and loan tax, the bank and trust company inspection tax, barber's tax, dentist's tax, doctor's tax, merchants' tax, chamberlain's tax—in short a tax on everything. And every dollar of this tax falls on the pockets of Mother Earth—on the men who work the soil."

"Well, it is the same in other states."

"Certainly. The same influences control in all the states—no matter whether the men in authority call themselves Republicans or Democrats. The greatest of these influences is the railroad influence, and the remedy is public ownership by direct legislation. This will make legislative lobbying a lost art. You will be for public ownership within two months."

"Why so?"

"Because the sentiment is so strong in Missouri that your state convention will declare for it, and then you will be going around here throwing up your hat for public ownership."

"Well, I don't believe in going outside of the party. I think such matters can best be settled within the party."

"Yes, the gang in control in Missouri are long on promises and short on action. They are willing to promise the people anything or stand on any sort of a platform that will give them a longer lease of power. Didn't their last platform declare for direct legislation, and didn't they vote it down in the legislature? Didn't they declare for the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people, and is not your Senator Vest, backed by the St. Louis Republic and the gang it represents, fighting that very measure today? Didn't the Democrats of St. Louis insert a public ownership plank in their platform, and wasn't the first act of the mayor the veto of a public lighting bill? What confidence can you expect the people to have in the platform pledge of such a party?"

Just then the telephone bell rang and the county clerk disappeared into his office, just as the editor was about to return to the tax question. He wanted to impress upon Mr. McPheeters that while the people were taxed at every crook and turn in the road, yet these millions were not sufficient to satisfy the demands of

the job holders. In addition to paying enormous direct and indirect taxes the taxpayer must, as a rule, pay extra if he desires any services from his "servants." This additional form of taxation is called "fees."

If the taxpayer goes to his "servant"—the recorder—and wants a marriage license he must pay a "fee." If he wants any recording done he must pay the "fee." If he goes into the probate court to file a will or do any other business he must pay the "fee." He has any use for the circuit clerk, the surveyor or most any of his "servants," he must pay the "fee." Hence he is not only taxed to the limit, but must also dig up the "fee."

Yes, the Democratic "party" has "redoubled" taxation in Missouri—in horn.

Oran Items.

People need not fear a shortage of food on the Fourth. They have made arrangements to barbecue 1000 pounds of beef, 500 pounds of mutton, besides pork, chicken and other meats. There has never been anything in Scott county that will equal this celebration. Come and see for yourself.

Peter Schurr, our baker, left for Peoria, Ill., Saturday. He was in poor health and at Galesburg, Ill., he had to be taken to the hospital. His wife was telegraphed for, and while she was at the depot awaiting the train to depart he died. Bright's disease was the trouble.

Mr. Ed Glascock, of Beaumont, Texas, is home again. We are all glad to welcome him here and learn he has been very successful in his investments.

Misses Blanche Finley, Lora Forrester, Madge Meyers and Jennie Clemson returned from Stiketon, where they were attending the teachers' institute.

We had a quiet wedding in town Monday evening. The sister-in-law of our popular photographer and a young man from Boone Terre, Mo.

There are three fine race horses here from Kentucky. There are already eighteen horses here and they expect eight more from Dexter.

Mr. Jack Phelps, of Stiketon, here for our new railroad came Sunday to begin putting in the new line.

Rev. H. J. Latour visited our town on Wednesday last, and everyone was glad to welcome him back again. The Cape Girardeau brass band will be here Thursday evening to play for the races Friday, the 4th.

Miss Alice Jones, of Commerce, who has been visiting Oran friends, returned home Saturday.

Mr. Lloyd Fulerwider, of Stiketon, brought another fine race horse for the races on the Fourth.

Mrs. J. W. Clemson entertained her Sabbath school class pleasantly Wednesday evening.

Stiketon, Charleston, Cairo and the Cape Girardeau teams will play here the 4th.

Morely.

The Iron Mountain has ordered the Harris wrecking train down and they will move the old depot up near the Iron crossing, making it convenient for passengers on both roads.

A. C. Babbitt, of Barber, has moved into the building formerly owned by Geo. A. Tompkins, but now owned by R. F. Barber, who has had it repaired and put in good shape.

Misses Agnes Offart, Adela and Estella Harris visited Mrs. T. C. Campbell, of Commerce, several days last week.

Miss Bonnie L. Luerback, of Stiketon, visited several days in Morley this week.

J. J. Hunter and family moved to the Cape Tuesday to spend the summer months.

Prof. J. H. Goodin, of Stiketon, was in our city a few hours Monday.

W. C. Lambert, of Benton, was in the city Tuesday morning.

Geo. Boston, of Vanduser, had business here Tuesday.

Mrs. L. C. Martin has been quite sick for several days.

Commerce Notes.

Are we the victim of some sort of a conspiracy? Every Sunday morning the "peavine" winds out its coil and freight trains, and the road being a snaking is too weakly to carry them. A week and no mail till Monday is the consequence. We are going to petition our Uncle Sam to regulate this thing if he can. This "peavine" ain't so big.

We would say to the little fishes the fisherman will get you if you don't look out. The Commerce Angling Club has organized with more than a score of good, stout, brave fishermen, who have all the accoutrements, "septic" worms, which they will die for you. Ward is president and Ireland secretary and you can get in for a V.

Now we serve notice on Miss Oran that she can do nothing with a mill. We have a big one built on the subscription donation plan on village franchise and she won't go. The Octopus will get you if you don't watch out.

The big editor and Dr. Haw, of Benton, were over Tuesday. Both report the crop as flourishing and we should judge she is as they are both gentlemen of veracity beyond question.

River is on a high order and owing to the heavy rains and reports the farmers on the island and low lands are worried about their corn, which promises an extra yield.

Wheat threshing has been suspended on account of the weather. Some report sprouting in the shock. Twenty bushels seems to be the yield and 65 cents the price.

The State of Missouri came over after one of our colored girls the other day, but his argument was too thin; failed to "stick" up.

Wade is building the grade at South street where the management proposes to take one of the links out of the "peavine."

Norval Anderson and sister, Mrs. Strubbsfield, are at Coral Springs, Ill., resting up.

A fellow told us our postoffice is statue quo and we guess it is. "Is quo something."

Mrs. Hutton entertained some young folks at supper Monday evening.